

Message Text

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21 16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

AF-10 INT-08 SCEM-02 NSC-10 AGR-20 OIC-04 DRC-01 SS-20

L-03 H-03 /213 W

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R 181924Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4931

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONCERNS REGARDING NOVEMBER XCSS MEETING

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE UK IS CONCERNED THAT THE NOVEMBER 8-9 MEETING OF THE OECD XCSS MAY TURN OUT TO BE A NON-EVENT UNLESS A SPECIAL EFFORT IS MADE TO INCLUDE MAJOR TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST ON THE AGENDA. EXAMPLES CITED BY BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE: THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE MIDEAST WAR ON WORLD ENERGY SUPPLIES AND ON THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM; THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL AND COMMODITY SITUATION; THE FUTURE TIMING OF THE TRADE AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS. THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT THE XCSS IS AN IDEAL FORUM FOR DISCUSSING BROAD ISSUES OF THIS KIND, AND THEY BELIEVE XCSS WILL QUICKLY LOSE ITS VITALITY IF IT BECOMES BOGGED DOWN IN TECHNICAL PROBLEMS THAT ARE ALREADY BEING TREATED ELSEWHERE (IN THE GATT, FOR EXAMPLE, OR IN OTHER OECD COMMITTEES). THE BRITISH INTEND TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING'S AGENDA WITH USOECD AND OTHER MISSIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME GUIDANCE ON US VIEWS CONCERNING THE AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON OCTOBER 17, ROBIN ALIOTT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND EXPORTS DIVISION OF DTI, MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION (XCSS).

2. HE SAID THAT THE UK CONSIDERS THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE XCSS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITH THE FORMATION OF THE OECD EXPERT GROUP THAT WILL ENSURE THAT INVESTMENT ISSUES ARE DISCUSSED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE TRADE AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS NOW A DANGER THAT THE XCSS WILL BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN DISCUSSIONS OF TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALREADY BEING CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE (IN THE GATT) FOR EXAMPLE, OR IN OTHER OECD COMMITTEES). THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT THE XCSS IS TOO USEFUL AN INSTITUTION TO SUFFER SUCH A FATE.

3. ALLOTT SAID THAT SIR MAX BROWN, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AT DTI AND THE UK'S SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE XCSS, BELIEVES THAT MAJOR TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST SHOULD BE

ON THE AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER 8-9 MEETING. AMONG THOSE
CITED BY ALLOTT WERE THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE
MIDEAST WAR ON WORLD ENERGY SUPPLIES AND ON THE
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM; CURRENT PROBLEMS IN WORLD
AGRICULTURAL AND COMMODITY MARKETS; AND THE FUTURE
TIMING OF THE TRADE AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE
LIGHT OF NAIROBI AND THE PROGRESS OF THE TRADE BILL.

4. ALLOTT SAID THAT DTI INTENDS TO ASK THE UK MISSION
TO THE OECD TO RAISE THESE CONCERNS REGARDING THE
AGENDA OF THE UPCOMING XCSS MEETING WITH THE US AND
OTHER MISSIONS.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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